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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/667,981	09/22/2000	George A. Burnett	2909	1090

7590 04/06/2004

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EXAMINER

LEE, BENJAMIN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2632

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/667,981

Applicant(s)

BURNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin C. Lee

Art Unit

2632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response To Amendment

New Matter

1. The amendment filed 1/16/04 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: Amendment to claims 1, 6 and 13 recite that the water-resistant barrier is applied to the housing such that "water entering the housing is prevented from entering the first cavity and affecting the piezoelectric transducer," which is not supported by the specification/disclosure that discloses only that the barrier is applied to the "front face", "grill", or "mating knurled nut" that are all exterior of housing/cavities (see figures and specification) in such a way that water would not be able to enter any portion of the housing without affecting the transducer, since water would first have to pass the front face, grill, or mating knurled nut.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Due to the new matter introduced in the claims as indicated above which requires cancellation, the following prior art consideration treats the claims without such new matter, i.e. without the amendment portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. **Claims 1, 6-7, 9-11 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnett (US pat. #5,675,312) in view of Leitten et al. (US pat. #5,420,570) as stand in the previous Office action.

3. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnett in view of Leitten et al.

1) In considering claim 14, Burnett and Leitten et al. made obvious all of the claimed subject matter as in claim 13, including:

--the claimed second cavity (relatively wider portion directly adjacent the piezoelectric transducer in Fig. 2 of Burnett) adjacent the first cavity (interpreted as the relatively narrower portion having the grill aperture and further away from the piezoelectric transducer in Fig. 2 of Burnett), wherein said second cavity further amplifies sounds emitted by the transducer (inherent by its structure and placement to the first cavity and to the transducer).

4. **Claims 2-5, 8 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnett in view of Leitten et al. and Lee (US pat. #5,707,757) as stand in the previous Office action.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/16/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

1) The amendment introduced new matter that requires cancellation as indicated above.

2) Since Applicant did not provide any evidence to support the allegation that the references were improperly combined, while the previous Office action rejection clearly provided the modifications involved as well as their motivation, Applicant's arguments are not deemed persuasive in overcoming the previous Office action rejection.

3) Regarding Applicant's argument with respect to the amended claims, since the amended claims involve new matter requiring cancellation, Applicant's arguments are not deemed persuasive in overcoming the current Office action rejection.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

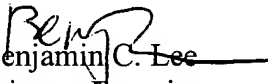
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin C. Lee whose telephone number is (703) 306-4223. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon -Fri 11:00Am-7:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on (703) 308-6730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2632

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Benjamin C. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2632

B.L.
4/4/04